



Updates on Allah, God of the Muslims

written by Putney Swope, September
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Allah Issues a Press Release

While mindlessly tooling around with my shortwave radio the other day, the dial cranked a bit farther to the right than it was mechanically designed to do. I picked up a faint signal of a voice which spoke with authority. It was a deep man's voice and, as soon as I could discern a few words, I clicked on the archaic cassette recorder which I keep nearby. Later, I transcribed the words – here's what the man said:

Hello, hello, This is Allah. Can anybody hear me out there? Yes, it's Me, Allah, God of the Muslims. I've been trying to get a message down to Earth, but there's such a cacophony of people mind waves, that it seems hard to get through to anyone. Although a lot of mullahs and Ayatollahs claim to speak for me, they're just not getting it right.just not getting it 'from the camel's mouth,' if I may coin a phrase. Hello, is anyone picking this up? I hope I'm not just talking to this ancient microphone that some martyr brought up here. Sometimes I feel like I'm talking to a wall.

How, you may ask, do I surmise that no one seems to be listening to me? All I can do is judge from how people manifest down there on Earth. If they were listening to me, they wouldn't be making such messes, and getting so angry at the slightest things. So many claim to be speaking in My name. Perhaps that was somewhat true in the old days, 1400 years ago, when Arabs first started proclaiming things in my name. At that time, I was very stern, judgmental, quick to anger and vengeance. You could say that was my youthful period, when everything I observed was either one extreme or the other. In other words, you either believed in Me and exactly what I believed, or you were marked as a heretic. If you were a believer, and repeated solemn oaths to Me, then all was Ok for you. If you strayed, even a little bit, you were deemed lower than a dog and worthy of a painful and bloody death.

But I've changed in the 1,400 years since then. You could say I've mellowed out. I'm not the bloodthirsty, ever-vengeful, excruciatingly judgmental God that I used to be. Hello, can anyone hear me out there? Ok, maybe no one is listening, but I'll go on talking in to the fiendish shortwave contraption, on the slim chance at least one person can jot this down and convey this message to others who may give a toss. Still, it feels odd, talking to a mechanical contraption without knowing whether anyone is listening.

Instead of recommending death for all who stray from My strict message, I now advocate tolerance. Ok, I know, you can call me soft. I know this will anger some of my fiercest defenders, but they're the types who get angry so easily, about so many things - you'd think their skin is as thin as a sheet of wet toilet paper. With the risk of alienating some of my flock, I'm going to go on record, as of

right now, as being a kind and compassionate God. No more fatwas. No more honor killings of any sort. If someone, whether a believer or non-believer strays from My message, it is now not OK to kill them, nor is it OK to pay or incite others to kill such people. If a teenage girl contemplates kissing a boy before she is married, it is now not OK to kill her.

One of the things which annoys me the most is when hot-heads make trouble when defending My name. Though that may have had some credence in the past, I want to make it crystal clear that I don't need defenders any more. I am what I am. So even if someone says I'm something different, so what? A rose is a rose. If someone comes along and calls it a daisy, are you going to chop their head off? When hot-heads charge around defending my name and reputation, it winds up making the hot-heads' beliefs look insecure. If they were secure in their beliefs about Me and the religion, then they would, at most, scoff at any reference which didn't fit with their belief system.

As the incessant shouting of 'Allah Akbar' - are you doing that for my benefit? It may have massaged my ego in the old days, but at my age, I don't need my ego burnished. In fact, I'm a lot less egotistical than I used to be. So go ahead and keep shouting how great I am, if it pleases you to do so, but please don't do it for my benefit. Plus, it looks odd when my followers do it for all sorts of extreme reasons. You'll do it when you're very happy, ok I can get behind that, but you also shout it when you're blowing up innocents in busy markets, or young men who are lined up to be police cadets. Please don't shout my name when you're about to cause grievous harm. It's plain offensive bordering on sicko. Call out any other name, if you must, when you're getting excited excited about killing innocent people, but leave My name out of it. Ok, can we agree upon that?

And this stuff about shooting guns in the air. Are you doing that for my benefit? I don't need guns being shot in the air. Plus, bullets fall back to earth, and can harm children and animals. Give it a break. Shoot in to the sand, if you must shoot a gun.

The French have a saying, 'Vive La Difference.' It means; not only let others be different, but you can even rejoice in those differences. Rejoice, as you would if observing an African dance troupe, or an Asian dragon dance, or a New Orleans jazz band at the closing of a funeral. So, to sum up; I am no longer a strict disciplinarian. I don't judge people like I did when I was younger, and felt a need for everyone to believe in exactly what I said, or else suffer pain and death. I am no longer a vengeful God, and neither am I still vindictive. 'Let bygones be bygones' is one of my new mantras. Instead of seeing Islam as the only true way, I now see truth in many religions, even in those of your species who claim to have no religion. Indeed, having no religion can be the most liberating mind-set, because it opens each person up for finding truth via their own experiences and inner guidance.

Back in the old days, when Mohammed was leading raiding parties out in the desert around Medina, people needed a strong personality to admonish them to follow. Many people still need that sort of compelling personage. Yet, I've noticed, when looking down upon contemporary earthlings, that there are an increasing number who are brave and innovative enough to make philosophical decisions on their own. Granted, people are a social species, and as such are not much different than wolves, in that they need an alpha male to look up to and to give them direction on how to think. Men like Mohammed, Jesus, Moses, The Buddha, and Krishna were, among other things, like alpha males whose ideas were followed by packs. Their respective packs of people had an innate need to follow their chosen leader.

Each one of those religious leaders had to figure things out for himself, though each probably had one or more gurus of their own. However, it's not necessary for everyone to 're-invent the wheel', so having teachers and guides is often useful in the quest to find what's real.

As for Muslim faithful: You can keep calling me Allah, and pray several times each day to Mecca, and that's fine. If it gets you to feeling fulfilled and righteous, so much the better. Just know that I'm

a mellower God and, the older I get, the more I lean to science and nature. Strict fundamentalism, including sharia law, are fading from my interest. There's too much harm being done in My name. I'm rather sickened by the pain and bloodshed I see on the planet. So don't go and harm anyone in My name any more. Indeed, don't harm any living things, not even the Earth itself, whether or not you believe mountains, rivers and oceans are living entities.

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Chapter 2 of 2

There Is Another God Besides Allah. Gertrude Be Praised!

There is But One God, Allah (lā ilāha illa-llāh) ...probably the most uttered phrase, among Muslims, after “Allah Akbar” meaning: 'Allah is great’

This just in, there is actually another God. Her name is Gertrude and she lives in the same neighborhood as Allah. The reason Allah is very popular and Gertrude is virtually unknown (until now), is because Allah is so concerned with being popular, and hogs all the limelight.

There are other differences: Whereas Allah insists that absolutely everything He utters is absolute truth, Gertrude is a bit wishy-washy at times. Because of his giant ego, Allah can not stand the slightest slight. He is very easily offended, so implores his multitude of followers to vehemently stick up for him at the slightest indignity. Even a mention of his name by a person who is not one of his followers is considered offensive. Gertrude, on the other hand, does not get offended. Because she doesn't have her ego wrapped around her self-image, there is nothing about her which could offend her. You can call her names, you can slander her relatives, her country, the color of her skin, her less-than-beautiful features, and it wouldn't offend her. However, on topics which don't affect her self-image, she might get a bit troubled. Issues such as abuse of other people or trashing nature, animals or plants would trouble her, but it wouldn't offend her personally.

Another difference between the two Gods is; Allah is an extreme disciplinarian. He insists that everything happen according to his dictates. His punishments are severe. There is no middle ground. If you do even a slight thing which is against his rules, He and/or his followers will come down like a ton of bricks. The cruel punishments that have been carried out in His name are endless. Not even children are spared. A young boy who is caught stealing can have his hand severed. A girl who kisses a boy before she is married can be killed with a knife, sometimes by her own father. There is no amount of blood revenge which is too cruel for Allah.

Gertrude is different in that regard. She isn't disciplinarian. Indeed, she allows people to make mistakes. Punishments for petty transgressions come in the form of reprimands. Serious offenses, like rape or murder are dealt with seriously, sometimes even with death for the perpetrator - if it's a particularly egregious crime or a repeat offense.

Allah approves of 'fatwas' which, among other things, are death warrants for those who have derided Him, or not shown sufficient reverence for Him. Gertrude doesn't believe in fatwas or their issuance.

Allah seems to have an unlimited number of virgins at his disposal. Every time a Muslim man dies, he's called a martyr, and thus goes to Martyrs' Heaven, which is an idyllic garden with unlimited fruit available, and flowers in bloom. The best part, is the 76 doe-eyed virgin beauties available for each martyr. So if 100 martyrs die from a market bombing one day, assuredly, 7,600 virgin girls will be on hand. How does he get so many, and how can he be assured they're all so willing to be of sexual service to every Muslim man that dies? Some might call that a free brothel, but that would offend Allah (but nearly everything offends Allah). It is assumed all the virgins are willing sex partners. Yet after they submit to the martyr's lust, they're no longer virginal. It's not known what

sorts of carnal delights await women or gay men who die as martyrs, though if you were to ask an Iranian President, he would say there are no gay men there - so that settles it for Iran, anyway.

Gertrude doesn't promise any virgins to people who die, whether for sexual or other services. Indeed, she doesn't promise anything, concerning what happens after death. She admits she doesn't know for sure, but assumes everyone decomposes and reverts to organic molecules like everything else that dies. Those molecules wind up feeding organisms of all types. If you were to ask her, she'd say we all revert to compost.

Gertrude alternately grins or groans when she hears Allah's referred to as "the Compassionate" (al-ra īm) or "the Merciful" (ar-ra mān) by his worshipers. Perhaps Allah is compassionate sometimes or even merciful, but it's rare to see that in evidence, when there are a thousand stories each day of His followers being the opposite of compassionate or merciful - towards others. Often those 'others' are innocents, fellow Muslims, or anyone who happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time when the wrath of Allah and his worshipers decide to detonate a bomb. Whenever that bomb is thrown or ignited, it's certain that someone will shout out 'Allah Akbar' (God is Great).

Gertrude is tired of hearing 'God is great' (Allah Akbar). It's shouted millions of times each day. It gets tiring. Muslims will shout 'God is great' for any and all events, whether they be good or bad. It's shouted so often, for so many occurrences (tossing a grenade, seeing a newborn child, winning the lottery, blowing up a building full of people) that Gertrude has resigned herself to accepting that it's nothing more than an exclamation, like the heathens' 'Good God' or 'Heavens' or 'Wow.' If she had a big ego, like Allah, she might get flattered whenever someone exclaims 'God is Great.' But alas, she doesn't get a thrill from compliments, so it's not a charge for her when someone or a crowd screams 'God is Great. Plus, she knows it's not for her benefit, because those people don't even know of Her as a God. To her, that's just as well.

She has true compassion and love. Not the poster-boy version. She won't be quick to judge people, with all their flaws, and seek misery and death for whomsoever doesn't agree with her ideas. She lets people be who they want to be, as long as they don't harm others or plants or animals or otherwise despoil the environment, like one of Allah's great followers did when he torched all the oil wells in Kuwait. For those who cause harm to people or nature, she starts out with dialogue, beseeching them to gain an appreciation for nature. If that doesn't work, she might take harsher measures, because sometimes people don't do the right thing just from hearing true words.

Allah may believe in higher consciousness, but if so, it could only apply to his followers. Because anyone who doesn't see exactly eye to eye with Him is considered flat out wrong. In contrast, Gertrude not only believes in higher consciousness, she believes that everyone has the potential to attain it. It matters not whether that person is Muslim or even whether they subscribe to any religion. Indeed, a lack of religion can be liberating, for the types of people who are developed to the extent of not needing to have their lives hemmed in by a rigid belief system. Allah, on the other hand, looks harshly on anyone who does not believe in Him. For Allah, there is only one belief system, and to even consider an alternative, is heathen and therefore brands the non-believer as 'an infidel' - and lower than a dog.

Allah purports to like women, but judging by the ways his followers manifest, they treat women worse than pet dogs. A dog might be allowed to go outside and see the neighborhood, but a woman is kept cloistered by a man. He owns her, and would come down harshly if she wanted to experience a bit of freedom outside her home. This is particularly annoying to Gertrude, who believes that women can be equal with men. She doesn't think that women are dirtier, as Allah thinks, and she doesn't think they're less intelligent. If a woman has a nice shape and/or nice features, Gertrude figures that woman should be able to walk around and feel good about herself. On the other hand, Allah wants all women, particularly those who are attractive, to wrap black cloths around themselves and, unless they absolutely have to go the market, to stay home and away

from any man's sight, other than her husband's. Any lust a man feels toward a woman, according to Allah and his followers, must have been sparked by the loose morals of the woman herself. Therefore, if there is any punishment for a man's lustfulness, it should be directed towards the woman.

As for rape. Allah sides with the men. If one or a group of men rape a woman, they can get away with it, as long as there are not a certain number of men who attest to the crime. Without male witnesses who are willing to testify, the rape is allowed and goes unpunished. One of Allah's most popular fans was the Ayatollah Khomeini from Iran. The Ayatollah was famous for interpreting the teachings of Allah. Much of his writings were fixated on human bodily fluids, including blood, sweat, and semen. Like all Muslim men, he considered women dirty, particularly when they were menstruating. The Ayatollah also allowed rape of children if the rapist's penis didn't penetrate beyond its 'crown.' We doubt that Allah would have approved of child rape, but we only have his top messengers as guides to his opinion on such things.

We could exclaim; Gertrude Akbar! ...but She wouldn't want such exclamations of praise. She'd rather you appreciate what you can about her example and teachings, and go about your life harming as few people and other species as possible. She would also not want you to get your ego wrapped around your self-image as the other God and his followers do. If you do that, then, like Allah, you'll get offended often. By getting so profoundly offended, you'll then get angry, then vengeful, then vindictive, and all sorts of misery will ensue. Gertrude is not about misery. She's about accepting others, with all their flaws, and hoping we can become better people,maybe even spiritually enlightened. And she's also about caring about the environment, and planting trees. She believes the best thing a person can do for the environmental health of the planet, is have less children.

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